GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4447
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
COCONUT PLANTATION AFFECTED BY DISEASES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coconut plantations in Karnataka have been affected by various diseases like Nusi,Root wilt, etc. and worms like blackhead worm and white worm etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect coconut plantations in the State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The coconut gardens in Karnataka have been affected by various pest and diseases. The major pests causing damage to coconut plantations in the state are Leaf eating caterpillar (black worm,), Eriophyid mite (Nusi) and Red palm weevil. Ministry of Agriculture through the programmes of Coconut Development Board is extending technical and financial assistance to the Government of Karnataka for adopting management practices for the control of the pest and diseases. Under these programmes, an amount of Rs. 13.50 crores was released to Government of Karnataka for the control of Eriophyid mite, out of which, an amount of Rs. 4.60 crores was provided for demonstration of eco-friendly integrated pest management practices in 22 severely pest affected coconut growing districts of the state. Besides, the project for development, demonstration and adoption fo technologies under Technology Mission on Coconut, following projects were sanctioned for control of leaf eating caterpillars in Karnataka.

1. Modernization of parasites breeding laboratory at Demonstration cum Seed Production (DSP) farm. Mandya with total financial assistance of Rs. 27.8 lakhs and Establishment of Biological Control Laboratory at Regional Office, Coconut Development Board, Bangalore with a total financial assistance of Rs. 42 lakhs. Under these projects,large scale multiplication and release of parasitoids in the endemic areas as farmer participatory demonstration for biological control of the pest is being done.

2. A project for development, implementation, training and popularisation of Integrated caterpillar was sanctioned to University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore with a total financial assistance of Rs. 29.67 lakhs.

3. A project for Biological control of leaf eating caterpillar by multiplication and release of parasitoids in the endemic areas was sanctioned to Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka with a total financial assistance of Rs. 20.00 lakhs.